

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for accessing messages stored in one communication platform by
2 another communication platform, the system comprising:

3 (A) a standard telephone system;

4 (B) a standard legacy voicemail system storing a voicemail message;

5 (C) a digital voicemail store; and

6 (D) a messaging server coupled to the standard telephone system, the messaging
7 server further being coupled to the standard legacy voicemail system, the
8 messaging server further being coupled to the digital voicemail store, the
9 messaging server comprising:

10 (D1) means for extracting the voicemail message from the legacy voicemail
11 system;

12 (D2) means for digitizing the extracted voicemail message; and

13 (D3) means for storing the digitized voicemail message in the digital voicemail
14 store.

1 2. The system of claim 16, wherein the messaging server further comprises:

2 (D4) means for deleting the legacy voicemail message from the legacy
3 voicemail system.

1 3. A system for accessing messages, the system comprising:
2 a legacy voicemail system having a voicemail message, the voicemail message
3 being accessible by a command of the legacy voicemail system;
4 an Internet-based communication system configured to transmit an Internet-based
5 request; and
6 a messaging server configured to convert an Internet-based request into the
7 command of the legacy voicemail system.

1 4. A system for accessing messages, the system comprising:
2 a first communication system having data, the first communication system being
3 configured to communicate using a first standard communication protocol, the data being
4 accessible by a command of the first standard communication protocol;
5 a second communication system being configured to communicate using a second
6 standard communication protocol; and
7 a messaging server configured to convert a request of the second standard
8 communication protocol into the command of the first standard communication protocol.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first communication system comprises
2 a legacy voicemail system.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the second communication system
2 comprises an Internet-based communication system.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the Internet-based communication system
2 comprises an instant messaging (IM) system.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the Internet-based communication system
2 comprises an email system.

1 9. The system of claim 6, wherein the Internet-based communication system
2 comprises an Internet call waiting (ICW) system.

1 10. The system of claim 6, wherein the data comprises a voicemail message.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the request of the second standard
2 communication protocol comprises a request to access the voicemail message.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the command of the first standard
2 communication protocol comprises a command to access the voicemail message in the
3 legacy voicemail system.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the command of the first standard
2 communication protocol comprises a command to extract the voicemail message from the
3 legacy voicemail system.

1 14. The system of claim 11, wherein the command of the first standard
2 communication protocol comprises a command to delete the voicemail message from the
3 legacy voicemail system.

1 15. A method for accessing messages, the method comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a request to access a voicemail message in a legacy voicemail system,
3 the request being received over the Internet;
4 converting the request to a command of the legacy voicemail system;
5 retrieving the voicemail message using the command;
6 converting the voicemail message to a voice-over-Internet-protocol (VoIP)
7 message; and
8 transmitting the VoIP message over the Internet.

1 16. A method for accessing messages, the method comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a request to access data, the data being located at a first communication
3 system, the request being received from a second communication system, the first
4 communication system being configured to communicate using a first standard
5 communication protocol, the second communication system being configured to
6 communicate using a second standard communication protocol;
7 converting the request to a command of the first standard communication
8 protocol; and
9 accessing the data at the first communication system using the command.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of accessing the data comprises
2 the step of extracting the data from the first communication system using the command.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of reformatting the
2 extracted data to be compatible with the second communication system.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting the
2 reformatted data to the second communication system.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of deleting the data
2 from the first communication system in response to extracting the data.